

# ● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : <u>09/46,280</u>	Examiner : <u>Krizer</u>	GAU : <u>3652</u>
From : <u>MR</u>	Location : <u>(IDC) FMF FDC</u>	Date : <u>04-23-05</u>

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DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> CLM	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Document Legibility
<input type="checkbox"/> IIFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 312	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> SPEC	_____	

[RUSH] MESSAGE: A 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) foreign priority claim cannot be based on a U.S. application. Please make all necessary corrections to file wrapper and specification. See MPEP 1893.03(c), Priority claim Under 35 U.S.C. 120.

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: Corrected.

INITIALS: def

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.  
REV 10/04

**MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL AND METHOD  
FOR RECOVERING, STORING AND/OR TRANSPORTING  
AND OFF-LOADING MATERIAL  
IN A DREDGING OPERATION**

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application  
Nos. 60/094,578, filed Jul. 28, 1998; 60/094,633, filed Jul. 30, 1998;  
60/095,797, filed Aug. 7, 1998; 60/098,160, filed Aug. 27, 1998, and 60/102,654,  
filed Oct. 1, 1998.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates generally to dredging, and, more particularly,  
to a multi-purpose vessel and method for recovering, storing and/or  
transporting, and off-loading material in a dredging operation.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Due largely to erosion, the waterways of many areas of the world are  
becoming choked with silt and the like. As the waterways become more and  
more shallow, certain problems arise. For example, navigation through the  
waterways becomes difficult or altogether impossible. In addition, the risk  
of flooding adjoining areas of a waterway increases as the depth of the  
waterway decreases.

Over the years, many dredging techniques have been devised.  
Perhaps the most popular dredging technique involves a vacuuming dredge  
which sucks silt and the like from the bottom of the waterway through a  
conduit or a hose. This technique is disadvantageous in several respects.  
For example, it collects large volumes of water in the dredging process. As  
a result, the material recovered by this dredging technique is largely a liquid  
mixture that is difficult to handle and dispose of. By way of another  
example, the vacuuming technique mentioned above tends to disturb the bed  
of the waterway in a manner that mixes silt and impurities imbedded in the  
silt into the water. Some of these impurities may be toxic (e.g., lead and  
mercury). Dredging with this old technique can, therefore, pose an  
environmental hazard. Due to these and other difficulties, dredging a  
waterway using the vacuuming technique is an expensive, time-consuming  
and hazardous proposition.



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Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 3654

<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b> 09/486,280	<b>FILING OR 371(c) DATE</b> 02/24/2000 <b>RULE</b>	<b>CLASS</b> 414	<b>GROUP ART UNIT</b> 3652	<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.</b> 29038/10006	
<b>APPLICANTS</b> DENNIS R. THOMAS, PEORIA, IL; MICHAEL D. PLATT, YATES CITY, IL; EDWARD S. KRESS, BRIMFIELD, IL;  <b>** CONTINUING DATA *****</b> This application is a 371 of PCT/US99/16972 07/28/1999 which claims benefit of 60/094,378 07/28/1998 and claims benefit of 60/094,633 07/30/1998 and claims benefit of 60/095,797 08/07/1998 and claims benefit of 60/098,160 08/27/1998 and claims benefit of 60/102,654 10/01/1998  <b>** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****</b>  <b>IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED</b> <b>** 04/25/2000</b>					
Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after met Allowance Verified and Acknowledged		<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> IL	<b>SHEETS DRAWING</b> 19	<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b> 45	<b>INDEPENDENT CLAIMS</b> 7
<b>ADDRESS</b> Husch & Eppenberg, LLC Robert C. Haldiman 190 Carondelet Plaza St. Louis ,MO 63105					
<b>TITLE</b> DREDGING VESSEL AND METHOD FOR RECOVERING, TRANSPORTING AND OFF LOADING MATERIAL					
<b>FILING FEE RECEIVED</b> 801	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit		